

Human Services

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Human Services program consists of mental health, mental retardation, substance abuse programs, child care services, and support to individuals and families who are homeless. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, the Department of Family Services, and the Office for Children are the major providers of these services.

LINK TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan has established a number of objectives and policies in order to:

- ✓ Coordinate land-use compatibility in the programming of new human service facilities.
- ✓ Target facility construction in keeping with demand as exhibited by waiting lists for existing facilities. This includes long term residential facilities and treatment facilities.
- ✓ Develop adequate transitional housing for homeless families.
- ✓ Provide for before and after-school child care needs of 15 percent of children attending elementary schools.
- ✓ Renovate and expand the Mt. Vernon Mental Health Center and the Woodburn Mental Health Center.

Source: 2003 Edition of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, as amended

CURRENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) serves Fairfax-Falls Church residents with, or at-risk of, severe and persistent mental illness or acute psychiatric/emotional distress, mental retardation, or alcohol or drug abuse dependency. The CSB's mission is to support people to live self-determined, productive, and valued lives within the community, to identify, develop and offer programs on prevention, intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, residential, and other support services in a personalized, flexible manner appropriate to the needs of each individual and family served.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse services include emergency, outpatient, day programs, long and short term residential, prevention, and early intervention. In addition, inpatient psychiatric services are available for persons with mental illness, and detoxification services are available for people who have substance abuse problems. Mental Retardation services include case management, residential and day support, transportation, respite, and family support. Additional services are provided through contractual arrangements.

In general, there is an increasing demand for all services provided by the CSB as a result of population growth, the increasing number of persons who are either uninsured or underinsured and more recently by the effects of trauma and terrorism with negative outcomes for many families in our community, both economically and emotionally. This growth in demand further compounds the delays already encountered for obtaining some services.

Public mental health services are provided by the Fairfax-Falls Church CSB through community mental health centers and satellite offices. Two of the county owned facilities, Mt. Vernon and Woodburn Community Mental Health Centers, are over thirty years of age and are in need of substantial renovation to resolve serious maintenance issues including plumbing problems, persistent mold outbreaks, and infrastructure issues related to age and deterioration. In addition, the Gregory Drive facility, a county owned property (which was previously a state police barracks) has been converted to a small mental health residential program. This property site could be expanded to collocate existing intensive residential services and reduce real estate rental costs in the community.

The economic changes of the past two decades have presented challenges to the CSB. The CSB has regularly documented the critical need for community-based residential services for persons with mental retardation, mental illness, and substance abusing problems. The trend toward downsizing state facilities and serving people in their communities has increased the need to develop resources in the community. In addition, there are long waiting lists for individuals in need of community residential supports, many of whom also need wheelchair accessibility. Once thought of as an alternative to institutional placement, community residences now have become a focal point for the care of persons challenged by mental illness, mental retardation and substance abuse. In a 1999 decision (*Olmstead v. L.C.*), the United States Supreme Court ruled that states have certain obligations to provide community-based services to persons with disabilities. Virginia recently developed its Plan to ensure that the intent of the *Olmstead* Decision is implemented in the state, and jurisdictions throughout Virginia have participated in planning community services with available resources. (www.olmsteadva.com)

There are additional issues associated with the residential support needs for children and adults with disabilities. There are currently over 1,500 individuals who need congregate residential services, and impediments for developing these services include shortages of operational funding and a lack of existing barrier free housing stock to accommodate the more serious disabilities of an aging population. The availability and provision of these services affect the public safety, and health and welfare of the general community.

Department of Family Services

The Department of Family Services' Office for Children (OFC) provides direct and support services to meet the child care needs of families in Fairfax County. These services advance the care, education and healthy development of children from birth through intermediate-school age. Through subsidized child development and family enhancement programs, low-income families are assisted in becoming self-sufficient and in breaking the cycle of poverty. The support services provided by OFC programs include coordinating all County-sponsored child care services for efficient delivery to residents, monitoring the child care provided in small home-based child care businesses in Fairfax County, tracking and responding to Federal and State child care legislation, and subsidizing child care fees of low and moderate income families using child care centers and family day care homes. The agency actively works to increase the supply of child care services and programs in the County by recruiting qualified providers for home-based care and by developing and funding new community-based child care centers. In addition, OFC works cooperatively with the business community to develop employer-sponsored child care benefit programs. The County also provides training and technical assistance to providers of child care in order to help them maintain and upgrade the quality of care for children. Parents are assisted in locating child care through the Child Care Resource System (CCRS) and, when selecting a family day care home, are assured of a safe child-care environment when such a setting has been issued a permit by the County.

Direct services provided by OFC programs include operating the School-Age Child Care (SACC) program in County elementary schools, and operating the Fairfax County Employees' Child Care Center for the children of County employees. The agency also administers the Head Start program (3-5 year-old children) for low-income families and operates and administers the Early Head Start program for low-income pregnant women and families with children from birth through two years of age.

In addition, the Department of Family Services administers the County's homeless shelter system. Currently there are five homeless shelters in the County, two serving homeless individuals, one serving families only and two serving both families and single adults. The County shelters are full to capacity every night of the week throughout the year. The number of homeless persons has continued to rise. According to an annual point in time survey, homelessness has increased 25 percent over the past five years from 1,658 in 1998 to 1,944 in 2003. Of the 1,944 homeless persons in 2003, 1,175 were in families including 843 homeless children. There is a critical need for increased shelter capacity. The community must have an adequate supply of shelter beds to be able to respond to immediate needs. Shelter capacity has not increased since 1991, but the County's population grew by approximately 185,000 persons between 1991 and 2003, an increase of 22 percent.

Homeless shelters can no longer meet true "crisis/emergency" needs of homeless families in the community. Since the spring of 1999 there has been an average of 50-70 families waiting 8-12 weeks for placement in the family shelters. Homeless families are forced to live doubled up with relatives or friends waiting for a shelter space to become available, placing everyone in the households' housing at risk. Homeless families with no other alternatives are being placed in motels to prevent them from living on the street or in other places not fit for human habitation, such as abandoned buildings, automobiles, or in the woods. While motels are an alternative resource for the homeless, they are a very poor environment for families, especially for the children in these families.

The Homeless Oversight Committee, in their 2001 Annual Message to the Board of Supervisors recommended that an additional fourth family shelter be constructed to address the critical shortage of shelter beds for families. Pursuant to the recommendation, staff from the Department of Family Services in conjunction with staff from the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Facilities Management Division developed a proposal for the construction of a fourth family shelter. The new shelter would be a 60-bed facility with the capacity to serve up to 20 homeless families at a given time. A new shelter would help alleviate the use of motels as an alternative to shelter and will address the critical need for emergency shelter for homeless families. The new shelter would be administered by the Department of Family Services and operated under the same general operating procedures as are currently in place in the other three family shelters. In addition to a new family shelter, two transitional housing units are being considered with this project. The two transitional housing units will house up to three families in single family attached units in a Great House configuration.

Other Human Service Facilities

In April 2002, the new South County Government Center was opened. The South County Center is a 159,000 square-foot facility that was developed under a public/private partnership. This facility allowed the County to consolidate services in the Richmond Highway corridor that were previously scattered in leased spaces. This project also includes a revitalization component for the corridor.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter.** \$6,181,000 for site acquisition and planning for a new 16,500-square foot, 60-bed facility to accommodate up to 20 homeless families needing temporary shelter. The facility will be located on Lee Highway in western Fairfax County, and will help alleviate the use of motels and address the critical need for an emergency shelter for homeless families. The new shelter will be administered by the Department of Family Services and operated under the same general operating procedures as are currently in place in the other three family shelters. In addition to a new family shelter, two transitional housing units are being considered for future development at the project site. The two transitional housing units will house up to three families in single family attached units in a Great House configuration. Construction of the family shelter is scheduled to start in early FY 2006.
2. **South County Center - System Furniture Lease Purchase.** \$5,095,000 to provide for payment of a five-year lease-purchase agreement associated with systems furniture for the South County Government Center, which opened in April 2002. The 159,000-square-foot Center includes a senior center, an expanded teen center, an employment center, office space for County staff, community meeting rooms, and an e-government center. The lease purchase funding of \$1,021,702 per year is included for office furniture for workstations, file cabinets, conference rooms, waiting areas, and offices.

3. **School Age Child Care Centers.** This is continuing project for which a contribution of \$500,000 per year is funded to offset school operating and overhead costs associated with SACC centers.
4. **Mt. Vernon Mental Health Center.** \$10,130,000 is estimated for a 15,000-square foot addition and renovation for the Mt. Vernon Mental Health Center to address health and safety issues, and to meet service and personnel requirements. A Human Services/Juvenile Facilities Bond Referendum was approved in Fall 2004.
5. **Woodburn Mental Health Center.** \$7,757,000 is estimated for renovation of the Woodburn Mental Health Center to address health and safety issues, and to meet service and personnel requirements. Opportunities to establish a new facility at an alternate site also are being investigated. A Human Services/Juvenile Facilities Bond Referendum was approved in Fall 2004.
6. **Gregory Drive Facility.** \$3,800,000 for renovation and expansion of the Gregory Drive facility to accommodate a relocation of the therapeutic mental health and substance abuse program from a privately owned house, thereby reducing costs and improving service delivery. The renovation will increase service capacity to 16 residents with 24-hour staff support services. It is anticipated that this renovation will be funded with bonds remaining from the 1988 Human Services Facilities bond Referendum and bonds from the 2004 Human Services/Juvenile Facilities Bond Referendum.

PROJECT COST SUMMARIES
HUMAN SERVICES
(\$000's)

Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Anticipated to be Expended Thru FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Total FY2006-FY2010	Total FY2011-FY2015	Total Project Estimate
1. Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter / 009464	X, G	1,100	3,200	1,881				5,081		6,181
2. South County Center - System Furniture Lease Purchase / 009425	G	3,051	1,022	1,022				2,044		5,095
3. School Age Child Care Centers / 007012	G	C	500	500	500	500	500	2,500	2,500	5,000
4. Mt. Vernon Mental Health Center / 009435	B, G	430	1,700	3,000	3,000	2,000		9,700		10,130
5. Woodburn Mental Health Center	B	27		1,000	3,000	3,000	730	7,730		7,757
6. Gregory Drive Facility / 04A002	B	30	700	1,840	1,230			3,770		3,800
TOTAL		\$4,638	\$7,122	\$9,243	\$7,730	\$5,500	\$1,230	\$30,825	\$2,500	\$37,963

Key: Stage of Development

	Feasibility Study or Design
	Land Acquisition
	Construction

Notes:

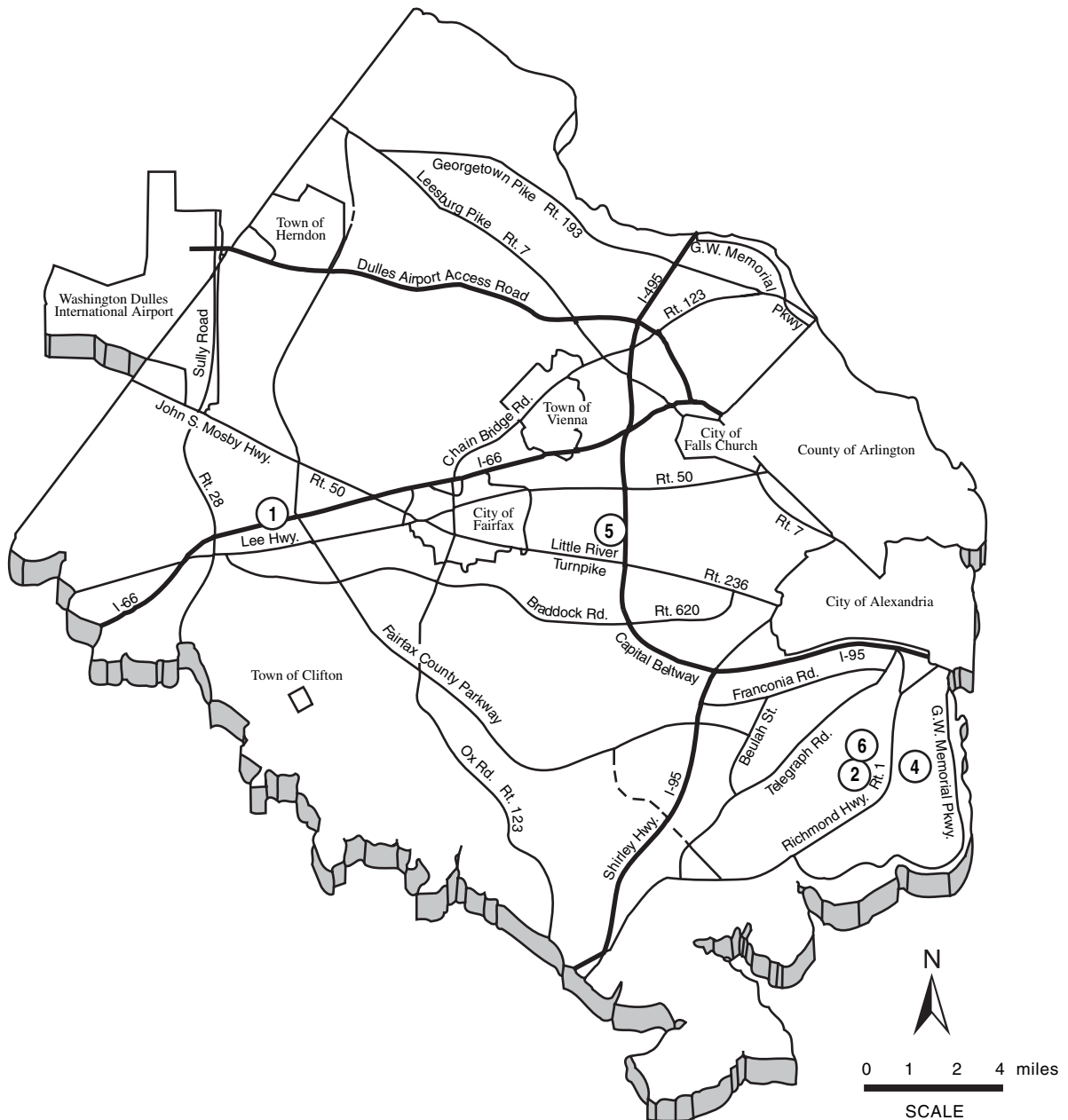
Numbers in bold italics represent funded amounts.
A "C" in the Authorized or Expended Column denotes a continuing project.

Key: Source of Funds

B	Bonds
G	General Fund
S	State
F	Federal
X	Other
U	Undetermined

Human Services

Location of CIP Projects



1. Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter
2. South County Center
4. Mt. Vernon Mental Health Center
5. Woodburn Mental Health Center
6. Gregory Drive Facility

Note: Map numbers correspond to the project descriptions in the text and on the summary tables. Only CIP projects with selected fixed sites are shown on the map.